

CALFED BAY-DELTA WATERSHED PROGRAM

BDAC Watershed Work Group Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: Friday, October 19, 2001

Meeting Location: Jones & Stokes
2600 V Street
Sacramento, CA

Meeting Attendees: See Attachment A

Introductions

Watershed Work Group (Work Group) Co-Chair Robert Meacher began the meeting with introductions. A list of attendees (Attachment A) is included with this summary.

Watershed Work Group Business

Formation of the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee

Martha Davis reported that CALFED's new formal advisory body, Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC), has been chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The first BDPAC meeting will take place in early December, at which time workgroups and sub-committees will be proposed. Ms. Davis explained that the Watershed Program was asked to present a description of the Watershed Work Group (Work Group) to BDPAC members at the first meeting. Other proposed work groups include the Ecosystem Restoration, Water Use Efficiency, and Drinking Water Quality programs. A draft description of the Work Group was distributed to the meeting attendees. The draft described the purpose of the Work Group; goals, objectives, and outcomes; membership and participants; decision-making process; and frequency of meetings. Ms. Davis explained that the Work Group description must be finalized by early November in order to be included with the BDPAC package. Comments and input are encouraged, and changes will be affirmed at the November Work Group meeting.

Work Group "Road Show Meetings"

Ms. Davis recalled that at the last Work Group meeting participants discussed having Work Group meetings outside of Sacramento. It was suggested that a total of 4 road show meetings per year would be adequate. It was also recommended that the first Work Group road show meeting be held on November 13 in combination with the California Biodiversity Council (CBC) Watershed Work Group meeting in Modesto. The actual CBC meeting will be November 14 and 15.

A draft agenda for the joint meeting of the CBC and CALFED Watershed Work Groups was distributed to the meeting participants for review. Ms. Davis indicated that the meeting time will be longer (9:30am–5pm) to accommodate business for both Work Groups. She asked Work Group participants to publicize the meeting and invite interested parties. She indicated that Watershed Program grant recipients will be invited to give short presentations on the linkage between their projects and the Bay-Delta.

Ms. Davis indicated that she would like the presentations at the joint meeting to be similar to the Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) presentations developed by the Work Group two years ago. At that meeting, seven powerful BDAC presentations were presented, each addressing the benefits of watershed work to CALFED. Ms. Davis requested volunteers for a similar presentation at the November 13 meeting. She also stated that stakeholders and grant recipients from the Modesto region would be invited to speak to CALFED about projects and concerns. CALFED will ask stakeholders about other projects that should be pursued with future CALFED funding, and how these projects connect to the Bay-Delta region.

A meeting participant asked how the Watershed Program is defining the Modesto region. Ms. Davis responded that the November meeting will not be exclusive to Modesto-area stakeholders but is an attempt to focus on particular regional groups. She agreed that the Watershed Program will have to consider carefully who will be targeted.

Another participant recommended the San Joaquin River Management Program be invited to give a presentation at the November meeting.

One participant indicated the Watershed Program should make sure the Work Group agenda does not conflict with the CBC agenda. Renee Hoyos (California Resources Agency) responded that the CBC agenda focuses primarily on agricultural issues.

Watershed Program 2001-2002 PSP

Mr. Lowrie stated that he, Ken Harris (State Water Resources Control Board [SWRCB]), and Bill Campbell (SWRCB) have worked to create a consolidated request for proposal (RFP) for fiscal year 2001–2002 watershed funds. Mr. Lowrie reminded the Work Group that the RFP will have two stages: (1) development of a “concept proposal form,” and (2) if selected, development of a full proposal. There are some remaining issues to be resolved, however, such as how much time should be allocated to RFP workshops. Because of funding and staffing constraints, workshops cannot be offered during both the concept and full proposal stages.

Mr. Harris stated that agreement has been reached on the draft concept proposal form and schedule. However, he is not comfortable with the time frame of 10 months from submittal of concept proposal to contracting. The concept proposal period will be 6 weeks. He reported that because the CALFED solution area is a subset of the SWRCB area, workshops need to be provided for regions beyond CALFED boundaries. It is not possible to reach all applicable regions within 6 weeks. Mr. Harris recommended that the workshops not be conducted solely for the concept phase, but instead focus on the full proposal process. He suggested holding the

workshops before the concept proposals are due, but focusing mainly on development of full proposals.

Mr. Coulter stated that the Watershed Program is partially funded by Proposition 13 (Prop 13) and is therefore subject to Prop 13 requirements and restrictions. Mr. Harris explained that some of the Prop 13 funds are reserved for small and rural communities that meet economic hardship criteria. CALFED will need to be imaginative in providing funds to projects that do not obviously qualify. Mr. Lowrie commented that the parameters defining *economic hardship* are confusing and that attorneys are attempting to sort out the conflict.

A participant asked about the history of concept and full proposals in CALFED. Mr. Lowrie answered that the RFP design is an attempt to minimize the amount of work by applicants and review time required by staff. This dual proposal approach worked well in the last funding round to meet the Watershed Program's needs.

Ms. Davis indicated that the dual proposal process was also designed to include projects not yet fully developed. If an applicant can make a case for a project benefiting the CALFED Bay-Delta program, the project should be able to qualify for Watershed Program funding, regardless of geographic location.

Mr. Lowrie stated that this process is intended to encourage applicants to define their goals and objectives and that concept proposals will be reviewed by all participating programs. The programs most interested in an individual proposal will request full proposal development. This process will be used to eliminate some applicants.

Mr. Harris stated that Prop 13 requirements will restrict which projects can apply for each funding source. For example, Lahontan region applicants will not be eligible for any funding source subaccount. Coastal applicants will have the greatest number of funding options. Workshops will therefore be somewhat tailored to each location.

Mr. Lowrie provided a breakdown of available funds. The distribution is as follows:

- SWRCB nonpoint source subaccount: \$22 million
- SWRCB Coastal subaccount: \$30 million
- SWRCB watershed subaccount: \$10 million
- CALFED Watershed Program: \$10 million
- CALFED Drinking Water Program: \$10 million

Ms. Davis asserted that the necessity for greater understanding of funding sources and limitations supports the need for early, concept-stage workshops.

A participant asked how the RFP team will address the needs of different applicants in a single workshop. Mr. Lowrie responded that the workshops will be a joint effort. The workshops will need to be tailored to the needs of applicants in each region. Also, additional outreach opportunities will be pursued. This funding round is not as restrictive as the CALFED Watershed Program 2000–2001 PSP. Program representatives will be allowed to interact with

individual applicants at all stages of the process. Outreach efforts can also be provided through the Work Group.

A participant asked whether the RFP team would consider organizing workshops by topic rather than geographic region to ensure that each concept proposal is indicative of what the full proposal will be.

Mr. Harris was asked which subaccounts will fund projects of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Mr. Harris answered that both the SWRCB and CALFED programs would fund NGO projects.

A participant indicated there was some confusion about the 3 subaccounts through Prop 13 and for which subaccounts individual projects would qualify. Adding CALFED to the process will only contribute to the confusion; therefore, workshops should occur early on to minimize confusion and answer questions. Several other participants agreed that they preferred workshops be held early in the process.

One participant asked what the release date for the RFP is. Mr. Harris responded that the estimated release date is in mid-November.

Update on Assembly Bill 2117 “Pilot Watershed Study”

Ms. Hoyos provided an update on Assembly Bill 2117 (AB2117). She stated that interviews have been completed for the 10 pilot watershed programs. Some issues that local groups have expressed concern about include: need for monitoring, grant funding coordination, infrastructure needs for watershed coordinators, regulatory coordination between agencies, long-term State commitment to watershed efforts, and agency staff availability for local community outreach and education. A draft report should be available for review in November. The final report is due to the Legislature by February 1, 2002.

Watershed Funding Database Presentation

The presentation of the newly developed watershed funding database was given by Kristen Cooper-Carter and Len Fisk of California State University, Chico (CSU Chico). Ms. Cooper-Carter and Mr. Fisk demonstrated the database and presented a series of slides to complement the demonstration. A summary of the presentation follows.

The Watershed Funding Database Project (Project) is a project of the College of Engineering, Computer Science & Technology sponsored by the California Resources Agency. The project is to provide a free, web-based information resource about contract and research opportunities that address California watersheds. The project objective has been to develop a descriptive database of funding opportunities that allows anyone with Internet access and a web browser access to the database.

The prototype is fully functional and has more features than will be used, so the project team is beginning to refine the interface. The web page may be found at <http://watershed.ecst.csuchico.edu>. However, the homepage has been revised and will look different from the prototype.

Participants were asked to provide feedback on the Watershed Funding Database. One participant asked whether the database is linked with other databases so that it is automatically updated. Mr. Fisk responded that the database is not linked to other databases because each database has a unique format.

One participant asked whether keywords requested or searched can be tracked. The presenters responded that currently only funding sources are tracked but that there is potential for other kinds of tracking.

Another participant asked whether the database cites only public funding sources. Ms. Cooper-Carter answered that private funding sources are also included but that many have limited geographic areas where funding is distributed. The funding sources are monitored, and if it is determined they have not funded projects in California in the previous 5 years, they are dropped from the database. Expired grants are removed from the database manually.

Environmental Justice Update

Dan Wermiel (CALFED Watershed Program) provided an update on the CALFED Environmental Justice (EJ) Workshops. He stated that CALFED is interested in meeting its commitment for EJ and mitigating disproportionate environmental impacts and is therefore holding a series of workshops throughout the State. Mr. Wermiel stated that approximately 75 participants from diverse backgrounds attended the most recent workshop in North Richmond. He indicated that the next EJ workshop will be held in Redding at Shasta College on November 8, 2001, from 6:30 to 9:00pm. The CALFED Watershed Program is collaborating with the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water on this workshop. Issues raised in Redding are likely to include forestry, Native American concerns, and low income challenges. The subsequent EJ workshop will be in Los Angeles.

Mr. Wermiel was asked whether CALFED will produce a report on its EJ efforts. He responded that issues will be combined into a list and presented to BDPAC in early 2002 in hopes of establishing an EJ Work Group under BDPAC. This list will ultimately shape the development of goals, objectives, and strategies to address EJ within CALFED.

Josh Bradt (Urban Creeks Council) asked participants to promote the EJ workshops to community leaders and organizations and public health officials. He stated that the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water is trying to do more outreach in the community. For example, the organization is currently developing a website.

A participant asked what issues were raised at the North Richmond EJ workshop. Mr. Bradt replied that water quality and contaminated fish were the dominant concerns raised at the workshop.

Another participant commented that EJ is not just an urban issue, but also a rural issue, and that there is confusion over the definition of EJ. Mr. Wermiel agreed that the definition of EJ is not clear, but is community-specific. He explained that CALFED is in the issue-identification stage and ultimately will develop strategies within the Workgroup.

A participant asked how the Watershed Work Group might assist the EJ Workgroup and how the two groups will be integrated. Mr. Wermiel answered that there is overlap between the two groups in that both are community-based. The Watershed Work Group can help the EJ Workgroup get established and serve as a model.

Ms. Hoyos suggested that the CBC is interested in including northern California rural communities typically unrecognized by government agencies and might like to hear related presentations by the EJ Program.

Watershed Updates

Marie Sullivan (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) announced that four job openings are available through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program. These positions will be in the areas of levee storage, watershed restoration, NEPA compliance, and wildlife refuges. The positions will close in early November. Visit www.usajobs.opm.gov for additional information.

Next Work Group Meeting

The date and location of the next Work Group meeting will be announced at a later date.

Meeting Participants

Name	Affiliation
Ames, Laurel	Sierra Nevada Alliance
Barris, Lynn	Friends of the River
Bradt, Josh	Urban Creeks Council
Brown, Syd	California Department of Parks and Recreation
Bowker, Dennis	Sacramento River Watershed Program/CALFED
Buzzard, Diane	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Campbell, Bill	State Water Resources Control Board
Cantrell, Scott	California Department of Fish and Game
Carter, Kristin	California State University, Chico
Chang, Phil	Sierra Nevada Alliance
Christensen, Doug	Montgomery Watson Harza
Cody, Casey Walsh	California Department of Food and Agriculture
Coon, Kristin	Calaveras County Water District
Cotter, Mark	California Waterfowl Association
Coulter, Ken	State Water Resources Control Board
Crooks, Bill	City of Sacramento
Davis, Martha	Inland Empire Utilities Authority
Duffin, Katy	Upper Merced River Watershed
Fisk, Len	California State University, Chico
Flores, J. R.	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Fox, Dennis	White River CRMP
Gallep, Tony	County of Lake, Water Resources Division
Harris, Ken	State Water Resources Control Board
Heiman, Dennis	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Helfer, Dana	California CRMP
Henly, Russ	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Holmes, Marc	The Bay Institute
Howard, Vance	Yolo County Resource Conservation District
Hoyos, Renee	California Resources Agency
Jacobs, Selene	Jones & Stokes
Knecht, Mary Lee	Jones & Stokes
Kobler, Amanda	University of California, Berkeley
Lavelle, Jane	City and County of San Francisco
Lowrie, John	CALFED
Meacher, Robert	Plumas County
Metzger, Carrie	Camp, Dresser & McKee
Nordberg, Mark	EIP Associates
North, Deborah	San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust
Ohlson, John	Yolo County
Robins, Kathleen	Ulati Resource Conservation District
Semitis, Collette	California Department of Water Resources

Sime, Fraser
Smith, Lynda
Snelling, Tim
Sullivan, Marie
Swearingen, Vieva
Torres, Monica
Toscano, Joann
Tuggle, Matt
Turner, Martha
Ward, Kevin
Webb, Olin
Wemiel, Dan

California Department of Water Resources
Metropolitan Water District
Nevada County
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group
State Water Resources Control Board
San Joaquin Exchange Contractors Water Authority
Solano County
Salmonid Restoration Federation
UC, Davis, Information Center for the Environment
BUHP Advocates
CALFED